study has concluded that the National Health Education Programme has failed to imparts correct knowledge about protection against various infectious diseases like TB, cholera, typhoid and polio which take heavy toll of life; and

(b) If so, what is Government's reaction in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Medical Research have received a study report from an Investigator in receipt of a study grant from Indian Council of Medical Research in which some shortcomings in the health education programme in three states have been highlighted. The Indian Council of Medical Research are yet to appraise the report, the methodology used and ,the validity of the conclusions drawn. It is, therefore, premature to consider taking any action.

Malnutrition in the Country

1804. SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether over 55 per cent children are affected by malnutrition in the country;

(b) whether any steps are being taken to provide cheap and balanced diet or any other model diet for the masses; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The following supplementary feeding programmes for pre-school children are implemented by the Government of India in an attempt to bridge the calorie gap observed in their home diets:

Ministry of Welfare:

(1) Balawadi Nutrition Programme.

(2) Special Nutrition Programme.

(3) Integrated Child Development Services Scheme.

Ministry of Human Resources

(4) Mid-day meal programme in primary schools.

In addition the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies is involved in several projects to improve the nutrition situation in the country:—

(1) Development of low cost weaning foods for supplementary feeding;

(2) Education, extension and publicity activities;

(3) Fortification and enrichment programmes such as salt with iron; Sago with proteins, vitamins and minerals and with Vitamin 'A'.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the following intervention programmes;

(1) Prophylaxis programme to prevent nutritional anaemia in mothers and children;

(2) Prophylaxis programme against blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency;

(3) National Goitre Control Programme.

Appointment of the Air India General Sales agent in London

1805. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has terminated the contract of its General Sales Agent in London and appointed another;

(b) whether the work load on the General Sales Agent at London is considerable; and

(c) if so, what is the extent of the work involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Air India has given a six-month written notice to its General Sales Agent in London on 21st October, 1985 to terminate the appointment effective from April 30, 1986. Air India has not yet appointed any other General Sales Agent.

(b) and (c) The question considerable workload for any agent would not arise as all General Sales Agents are expected to serve the airline effectively in the areas specified as under:

(1) servicing of passengers and sub-agents;

(2) effecting reservations for passengers for their travel;

(3) issuance of tickets against collection of payments;

(4) submission of sales reports to the airline every fortnight along with payments on due dates, i.e. twice monthly;

(5) assisting passengers for any change in reservations and processing refunds for unutilised portion of the tickets.

Menance of aids in kovam coast

1806. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the menace of AIDS in Kovalam Coast from the foreign tourists and contamination from garments; and

(b) if so what preventive measures Government propose to take to check the disease?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A Surveillance on the disease is being kept. State Directorate of Health Services, the Incharges of S.T.D. Clinics, Incharge of State Health Education Bureaus and Incharge of Blood Banks of the country have been alerted time and again to keep in mind the signs and symptoms of the disease and report as and when such suspect cases occur.

In order to arouse public awareness especially high risk groups like homosexuals and blood donors the State Health Education Bureaus have been requested to provide the requisite health education to those attending STD Clinics, Blood Banks etc.

Instructions have been issued to Medical and technical personnel to use adequate sterile injection equipment for medical purposes; blood and plasma organisations should provide relevant information about AIDS to intending donors to promote and encourage voluntarily self evaluation policy.

Time and again instructions are issued to State|UTs Health authorities to keep strict watch on AIDS. They are also provided relevant material on AIDS as and when received from World Health Organisation and other agencies doing research on AIDS outside the country.

Rail link between Ahmedabad and Hyderabad

1807. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide a direct railway link between Ahmedabad and Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Blackmarketing in railway reservations

1808. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the unabated blackmarketing in the railway reservations at the New Delhi/Delhi railway stations in connivance with the travel agents despite the various measures claimed to have been taken by Government to check it; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to identify the railway officials and the travel agents involved in the racket to curb the growing menace